(c) and (d) The CII survey report was to create awareness about the new opportunities to facilitate Indian industries to be globally competitive with international networking and to promote Indian lindustries based on biotechnology. The report has not been submitted to the Government.

(e) Several measures have been taken by the Government for promotion of bio-tech sector. To encourage research in industrial sector, the Government of India has established Technology Development Board (TDB) and Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the Department of Science and Technology for providing soft loans. Incentives like exemption from Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 for certain bio-tech products, more than 100% of weighted deductions on R&D expenditure etc., have been allowed. There is a specific expert group in the Department of Bio-Technology (DBT) to identify for implementation of product and technology oriented research. There is a close interaction now between academia and industry to transfer indigenously developed technologies for commercialisation. So far 53 technologies based on indigenous research have been transferred to the industries. Special fund has been provided to DBT for setting up bio-tech incubators and parks to promote entrepreneurship. Training in the industrial bio-tech sector is also given at many universities and IITs. Bio-tech Product and Process Development and Commercialization Awards are given to scientists and industries as an lincentive. Further, imposing Custom Duties on imported bio-tech products wherever necessary, encouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in biotech sector, initiating measures for speedy implementation of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) projects, constitution of Fast Track Committee (FTC) under Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) etc. are the other steps.

**Six new Railway Zones**

*87. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to set up six new Railway Zones in 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial projection in terms of additional resource generation by the proposed creation of New Zones and financial expenditure anticipated for the administrative infrastructure to be developed for this creation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had decided to set up six new Railway Zones in 1996 as under:—

1. East Central Railway with Headquarter at Hajipur
2. North Western Railway with Headquarter at Jaipur
3. East Coast Railway with Headquarter at Bhubaneswar
4. North Central Railway with Headquarter at Allahabad
5. South Western Railway with Headquarter at Bangalore now Hubli
6. West Central Railway with Headquarter at Jabalpur.

It was also decided to set up another zone at Bilaspur in 1998. All the seven new Zones have since been notified.

(c) The new Zones are created, by carving them out of existing Zones, based on the criteria of workload, accessibility, geographical sprawl and pattern of traffic flows and other administrative and operational requirements, so as to provide relief to the heavily worked Zones and improve their efficiency. Financial projections (in terms of additional resource generation) have neither been made nor it is feasible to quantify them, however, even a small increase in efficiency is expected to give rich dividends. The anticipated expenditure would be around Rs. 600 crore, including Rs. 58 crore, already spent.

**Wildlife in Madhya Pradesh**

*88. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national parks, sanctuaries, nature and bio-sphere reserves and tiger projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details regarding the names, locations areas notified in primary notification and the areas, finally notified under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act; and